



SNAP Outreach Program



What is the SNAP Outreach Program?

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program(SNAP) Outreach helps senior citizens who lack mobility or are homebound apply for food assistance benefits. Maryland Food Bank SNAP Outreach workers provide intensive, step-by-step support completing applications, gathering supporting documentation, personally submitting materials to the Dept. of Social Services and tracking the status of applications to ensure timely processing.

How does it work?

SNAP Outreach events are held in senior communities at risk of hunger every weekday in Washington, Frederick, Allegany & Garrett counties and often combined with food distributions to provide immediate relief to seniors who are homebound and/or living on fixed incomes.

5 MYTHS ABOUT SENIORS AND THE SNAP(SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM)

MYTH 1: IF I LIVE WITH MY CHILDREN, I HAVE TO APPLY WITH THEM.

False. Anyone who is 60 years or older and/or disabled can apply independently(or with their spouse), whether or not they live with their children or others.

MYTH 2: I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO DO MY OWN GROCERY SHOPPING IN ORDER TO RECEIVE SNAP BENEFITS.

Not true. If you are unable to do your own grocery shopping, you can assign an authorized representative who can use your EBT card to buy your groceries for you.

MYTH 3: I'LL ONLY GET THE MINIMUM BENEFIT.

Not exactly. The average benefit for seniors in Maryland is \$113 per person per month. Even if you do receive the minimum, which is \$16 per month, you can use it to buy extra fruits and vegetables! It's worth the effort to apply.

MYTH 4: IF I HAVE INCOME I CANNOT APPLY FOR SNAP.

Wrong. Many seniors who receive Social Security and/or pension are receiving SNAP to help them buy food each month.

MYTH 5: BY ACCEPTING SNAP, I AM TAKING AWAY FUNDS FROM PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED THEM.

No Way! There is unlimited funding for SNAP. It is for anyone and everyone who needs it. You paid into the system and it's your turn to get benefits from it.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SNAP PROGRAM

DID YOU KNOW?

- *If your out-of-pocket **medical expenses** are greater than \$35 per month(for individuals who are disabled or age 60 or older), you can claim them as a deduction to get a greater SNAP benefit.*
- *The average SNAP benefit for seniors in Maryland is \$113 per person per month.*
- *SNAP benefits now come in electronic form known as an EBT card, which looks and functions the same way as a debit card.*
- *Most grocery stores now accept SNAP.*
- *Some **farmer's markets** now accept SNAP benefits.*
- *You can use SNAP benefits to buy uncooked food and seeds or plants for growing.*

DOCUMENTS YOU WILL NEED TO DO YOUR APPLICATION:

- *Proof of Identity(like a copy of your ID and Social Security Card)*
- *Proof of rent or mortgage expenses*
- *Proof of Income(Social Security, Pension, annuity, etc)*
- *Medical Expenses*
- *Proof of Utility Expenses*

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is there an income guideline in order to qualify for SNAP benefits?

A: Yes, however, if you pay out of pocket health insurance, medical bills, or pharmacy bills, this will be considered in determining eligibility. Also, if you pay rent/mortgage, utilities, renter's/homeowner's insurance, this will also be considered in determining eligibility.

Q: Will all of my personal information be kept confidential?

A: Yes. All documents and statements submitted to the Maryland Food Bank SNAP Outreach Program and Department of Social Services will be kept confidential and used only for the sole purpose of determining eligibility for SNAP benefits.

Q: Will I have to go to Department of Social Services for an interview?

A: No. The SNAP Outreach Coordinator will conduct the required interview with you the day of the outreach event at your facility. There is no need for you to go to Department of Social Services for any reason.

Q: How will I receive my benefits each month?

A: Once approved, you will be sent a yellow Independence Debit Card to be used at any major grocery store. The same amount of money will be added to your card each month. The packet of information received with the card will instruct you on how to activate the card and will provide you with toll free telephone number for future questions or concerns when using your card.

Q: What happens if I no longer wish to receive SNAP ?

A: Simply contact your Department of Social Service Case Manager or SNAP Outreach Coordinator and they will request that your SNAP benefits stop.

Q: What happens if I move or enter a nursing or assisted living home?

A: You will need to notify your Department of Social Service Case Manager or SNAP Outreach Coordinator if you plan to move. If you move to another county within Maryland, they can transfer your case to that particular county if all other eligibility requirements still apply. If you move out of the state of Maryland, your case would be closed and you would have to apply with the state that you have moved to. If you move into a nursing or assisted living facility, you would not be eligible to receive SNAP benefits and your case would close.

Q: How long do my benefits last and do I have to re-apply?

A: Benefits last for a year. Once it is time for you to re-certify, a recertification application will be sent to you and your SNAP Outreach Coordinator. At that time, your SNAP Outreach Coordinator will coordinate a time to return to your facility to re-certify your SNAP benefits.



**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SCHEDULING A HOME VISIT TO APPLY
FOR SNAP, WANT TO KNOW WHEN SNAP WILL BE IN YOUR AREA,
OR HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Wendy Barrick

SNAP Outreach Coordinator

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